

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

1. The assignment of the personal guard is to protect the lives of the Soviet "leaders". A member of the personal guard must, if necessary, shield the "leader" with his own body.
2. During the war Andrey Zhdanov, at that time a member of the Politburo, had his summer residence on an island somewhere near Leningrad. An area of unknown size around the dacha was called, in (then) NKVD language, the "special service zone" (zona osobogo obsluzhivaniya). This zone was kept under vigilant control by the NKVD, and the 45th Guards Rifle Division was located in close proximity. One day Zhdanov's guards discovered some hand grenades in the special service zone. A lively correspondence began in connection with the case. Zhdanov's guards wanted to know whether or not the hand grenades were left in the special service zone by accident. The Chief of the Special Section of the NKVD of the 45th Guards Rifle Division finally managed to convince the guards that the grenades had been left there by soldiers of the division during a combat operation.
3. In 1942 when the 45th Guards Rifle Division was created from the 70th Rifle Division for successful operations at the front, Zhdanov himself presented the guards colors to the division. The area where colors were presented was surrounded in advance by a battalion, specially brought from Leningrad. Telephones were installed in the whole sector, and from every corner of the square calls could be made to the Special Section of the NKVD of the Leningrad Front and to Headquarters of the Front. A high-ranking Air Force officer also was on duty at a telephone, in case of an enemy air raid. A wooded area near the parade ground was combed by agents of the First (or Headquarters) Section of the Special Section of the NKVD of the Leningrad Front. Zhdanov arrived with his own guard and with about twenty other persons, including generals of the Leningrad Front, so it was difficult to determine the number of personal guards. The agents of the Special Section of the NKVD of the division and those of the

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Special Section of the NKVD of the army, who were brought for this occasion, formed a line at some distance from the stand where Zhdanov delivered his speech.

4. On special occasions, such as the May Day and 1 November parades, lunch for Zhdanov and his entourage was brought to the reviewing stand in a special sealed box by an NKVD officer. On the evening preceding the ceremony the food was analyzed by a special physician to determine whether it was poisoned, and then in the presence of a special commission of the NKVD the food was sealed in a box.
5. When Molotov and Vyshinskiy passed through Berlin, travelling to various conferences in Paris, London, and New York, agents of the First Section of the Directorate of Intelligence (UKR) reported to the Berlin-Dahlfhof airfield for the "organization of security". Before the plane arrived, a coded cable usually was sent by the Third Chief Directorate of the NKGB ordering that the airfield be checked with mine detectors. The First Section would dispatch several operational officers to supervise the work of a company of engineer troops which checked the airfield for mines.
6. When organizing security for the participants at the Potsdam Conference in 1945, Lieutenant General Vlasik, Chief of Stalin's guard (and also Stalin's personal photographer), arrived in Germany before the Conference started. Vlasik called a meeting of the NKGB personnel in charge of security for the participants of the Conference. The protective measures for Stalin himself were extremely thorough. For instance, two routes were established, which Stalin would traverse in his car. These routes were subdivided into sectors (trassa), which in turn were subdivided into segments. Each of the operational officers participating in the security measures had one such segment assigned to him. Operational officers were required to know who lived along the route in their segments, and had two weeks to investigate all persons. If one of the inhabitants was considered a security risk, the operational officer, under various pretexts, would remove him to another district. Agents were given assignments to unmask persons who had terroristic intentions; and, should the slightest suspicion arise, the suspect was isolated.
7. In order to protect participants of the Potsdam Conference (meaning Stalin), a regiment of NKVD troops was sent to Potsdam. All the routes Stalin could use when travelling were equipped with telephones. Guards were ordered not to use firearms in the Conference area without special need, but to use silent weapons (bayonets) "in order not to disturb the Conference work".

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